

THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing an electronic information service in a computer system connected to a network, the method comprising:

creating a first information object comprising a partial area of a virtual pixel area into which a plurality of users can write information and from which the plurality of users can read information, said first information object including a position-coding pattern having sufficient resolution to define a track of a drawing device when the drawing device is moved over the position-coding pattern;

transmitting the first information object via the network to a first user included in the plurality of the users;

receiving a second information object from the first user including a modification of at least part of the partial area of the virtual pixel area, said second information object comprising position information obtained from the position-coding pattern; and

updating the virtual pixel area utilizing the second information object, wherein the position information obtained from the position-coding pattern is used to provide a graphical image that is not in text format and which is created by moving the drawing device over the position-coding pattern.

2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving a request from the first user for the partial area of the virtual pixel area.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving a request from the first user for the partial area of the virtual pixel area, and wherein creating the first information object comprising the partial area of the virtual pixel area comprises creating the first information object in response to the request from the first user.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the virtual pixel area includes a background image.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein creating the first information object comprises including a background image in the first information object.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the virtual pixel area comprises a plurality of graphical files.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein creating the first information object comprises including an information image in the first information object.
10. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising selecting an information image based on user parameters specific to the first user, and wherein creating the first information object comprises including the information image in the first information object.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein creating the first information object comprises including a banner ad in the first information object.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein creating the first information object comprises including a banner ad targeted to the first user in the first information object.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising notifying a second user when the virtual pixel area has been updated.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising notifying a second user if a portion of the virtual pixel area specified by the second user is updated as a result of updating the virtual pixel area utilizing the second information object.

15. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 1.

16. (Original) A computer system adapted to perform the method of claim 1.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for providing an online graphical message service, the method comprising:

receiving from a first user a request for at least a portion of a graphical image;

transmitting the portion of the graphical image and a position-coding pattern over a computer network to the first user, the position-coding pattern having sufficient resolution to define a track of a drawing device ~~over a computer network to the first user~~ when the drawing device is moved over the position-coding pattern;

receiving over the computer network a modification of the graphical image from the first user, said modification comprising position information obtained from the position-coding pattern;

updating the graphical image to include the modification; and

making the updated graphical image available for viewing and modification by a second user, wherein

the position information obtained from the position-coding pattern is used to provide a graphical image that is not in text format and which is created by moving the drawing device over the position-coding pattern.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising transmitting the modification to a second user who has previously been provided with a portion of the graphical image affected by the modification.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the position-coding pattern is detectable by an optical sensor for identifying locations on the portion of the graphical image.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein receiving over the computer network the modification of the graphical image from the first user comprises receiving a set of locations determined with respect to the position-coding pattern having a known relationship to the portion of the graphical image.

21. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein a plurality of graphical files represent sections of the graphical image.

22. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising transmitting a banner ad to the first user.

23. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising transmitting to the first user a banner ad whose content is targeted to the first user.

24. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 17.

25. (Original) A computer system adapted to perform the method of claim 17.

26. (Currently Amended) A method for providing an electronic information service in a computer system connected to a network, the method comprising:

receiving a message from a user comprising position information obtained from a position-coding pattern having sufficient resolution to define a track of a drawing device when the drawing device is moved over the position-coding pattern;

receiving from the user an indication of a position for the message on a virtual area;
placing the message in the position on the virtual area; and
making at least portions of the virtual area available for viewing and modification by a second user, wherein

the position information obtained from the position-coding pattern is used to provide a graphical image that is not in text format and which is created by moving the drawing device over the position-coding pattern.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the message has associated therewith a fixed time period in which the message will remain in said position on the virtual area, the method further comprising:

removing the message from said position on the virtual area after elapse of said fixed time period.

28. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 26.

29. (Original) A computer system adapted to perform the method of claim 26.

30. (Previously Presented) A method for participating in an online graphical message service, the method comprising:

sending a request over a computer network to a computer server for at least a portion of a graphical image that is available for modification and viewing by a plurality of users;

receiving the portion of the graphical image over the computer network;

displaying the portion of the graphical image to a first user included in the plurality of users together with a position-coding pattern, detectable by an optical sensor, in a known relationship to the portion of the graphical image;

receiving a modification of the portion of the graphical image from the first user comprising a set of coordinates generated as a result of the first user moving an optical sensor over the position-coding pattern; and

sending the modification over the computer network to the computer server.

31. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein displaying the portion of the graphical image to the first user comprises displaying the portion of the graphical image on a computer monitor.

32. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein displaying the portion of the graphical image together with the position-coding pattern to the first user comprises printing the portion of the graphical image with a printer.

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Original) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 30.

36. (Original) A computer system adapted to perform the method of claim 30.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein, the updated virtual pixel area utilizing the second information object has associated therewith a fixed time period in which the virtual pixel area will remain updated utilizing the second information object, the method further comprising:

removing the second information object from the updated virtual pixel area after elapse of said fixed time period.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, further comprising:

visually indicating to all users of the electronic information service, via a non-numerical graphical representation, elapsing of said fixed time period in which the virtual pixel area will remain updated utilizing the second information object.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the updated graphical image including the modification has associated therewith a fixed time period in which the updated graphical image including the modification will remain updated utilizing the modification, the method further comprising:

removing the modification from the updated graphical image including the modification after elapse of said fixed time period.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, further comprising:

visually indicating to all users of the online graphical message service, via a non-numerical graphical representation, elapsing of said fixed time period in which the modification of the portion of the graphical image will remain updated utilizing the modification.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, further comprising:

visually indicating to all users of the electronic information service, via a non-numerical graphical representation, elapsing of said fixed time period in which the message will remain in said position on the virtual area message.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, further comprising:

making the modification of the portion of the graphical image available for viewing and modification by a second user, the modification of the portion of the graphical image having associated therewith a fixed time period in which the portion of the graphical image will remain modified; and

removing the modification of the portion of the graphical image after elapse of said fixed time period.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42 further comprising:

visually indicating to all users of the online graphical message service, via a non-numerical graphical representation, elapsing of said fixed time period in which the modification of the portion of the graphical image will remain available for viewing and modification.